

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USUN NEW YORK 824
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1965

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEBR, PARM, UR, CE

SUBJ: SOVIET FOREIGN OFFICE VISITOR BRIEFS SRI LANKA FOREIGN
MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: ON APRIL 25 B. KIRNOSSOVSKI, SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS,
SOVIET FOREIGN OFFICE, MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER A.C.S. HAMEED.
ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL, HE
DISCUSSED DISARMAMENT, US-SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN TALKS, AND
ASIAN SECURITY. KIRNOSSOVSKI NATURALLY PRESENTED SOVIET
POSITIONS AS REASONABLE AND BLAMED PROBLEMS ON US AND OTHERS.
END SUMMARY.

2. DISARMAMENT
KIRNOSSOVSKI DEVOTED BULK OF TIME TO SPECIAL SESSION ON DIS-
ARMAMENT (SSOD), ATTEMPTING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT SOVIET AND
NON-ALIGNED POSITIONS ON DISARMAMENT ARE CLOSE. REFERRING
TO A NAM WORKING DOCUMENT FOR SSOD, HE SUGGESTED THAT ALL
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SUBJECTS SHOULD BE TREATED TOGETHER RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALLY
IN SEQUENCE AS THEY APPEAR IN NAM DOCUMENT. HE BLAMED US
FOR LACK OF PROGRESS ON DISARMAMENT, CITING PRESIDENT CARTER'S
POSTPONEMENT OF NEUTRON BOMB PRODUCTION AS MERE PLOY. KIR-
NOSSOVSKI REFERRED TO PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE'S DISARMAMENT
PROPOSAL MADE AT COMMONWEALTH MEETING IN SYDNEY IN FEB., 1978,
AND INDICATED SOVIET INTEREST AND SUPPORT. HOWEVER, WHEN

HE ASKED FOR DETAILS, MFA OFFICIALS ADMITTED DETAILS HAD NOT BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH, THAT PRESIDENT'S DISARMAMENT STATEMENT WAS ONLY SKELETON WITHOUT FLESH.

3. US-SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN TALKS

IN DISCUSSING FOURTH SESSION OF INDIAN OCEAN TALKS, KIRNOS-SOVSKI SAID THAT USSR DOES NOT ACCEPT US CONTENTION THAT EVENTS IN HORN OF AFRICA CONNNECTED TO TALKS. HOWEVER, DESPITE US STAND ON AFRICA, AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON SOME ISSUES. HE SPECIFICALLY FAULTED US FOR STAND THAT FREEZE OF LEVELS IN INDIAN OCEAN WOULD NOT APPLY TO DIEGO GARCIA, CLAIMING THAT SOVIETS HAVE NOT HAD AND DO NOT WANT BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN. WHEN MFA OFFICIALS NOTED THAT NO TIME AND PLACE FOR NEXT MEETING HAD BEEN SET AS HAD BEEN DONE AT END OF PREVIOUS MEETING, KIRNOSOVSKI INDICATED THAT TALKS WILL CONTINUE.

4. ASIAN SECURITY

TO SURPRISE OF MFA OFFICIALS, WHO CONSIDERED IT A DEAD ISSUE, KIRNOSOVSKI RAISED SUBJECT OF COLLECTIVE ASIAN SECURITY. ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL, KIRNOSOVSKI EVINCED ALMOST PATHOLOGICAL FEAR OF CHINESE. KIRNOSOVSKI TICKED OFF BAD RELATIONS CHINESE HAVE WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, ITS REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN DISARMAMENT TALKS, AND ITS INTENTION TO DEVELOP NEUTRON BOMB.

5. COMMENT

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KIRNOSOVSKI'S VISIT REPRESENTS SUSTAINED SOVIET ATTEMPT TO PROJECT ITS POINTS OF VIEW AND ENLIST SYMPATHY FOR ITS POSITIONS, POSSIBLY TO BRING PRESSURE ON US. THIS IS THIRD SOVIST FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFING IN PAST EIGHT MONTHS. EACH REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN WELL ORGANIZED AND THOROUGH. UPCOMING KABUL NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING AND SSOD ARE PROBABLE REASONS FOR KIRNOSOVSKI'S PEREGRINATIONS. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT MFA OFFICIALS ARE FLATTERED BY THE ATTENTION BEING GIVEN THIS SMALL COUNTRY, THOUGH THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO DISCUSS WITH US SOVIET INTENTIONS AND REMAIN OBJECTIVE. MFA OFFICIALS FREQUENTLY REFER TO NSC'S THOMAS THORNTON'S JAN., 1978 VISIT AND DISCUSSIONS HERE. IF ANOTHER SWING THROUGH SOUTH ASIA BY A KEY US OFFICIAL BECOMES DESIRABLE, SRI LANKA SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE ITINERARY. WRIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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